

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s) : Hiroshi Katayama  
Serial No. : Continuation of 09/569,903  
For : PICTURE DECODING APPARATUS, PICTURE DECODING  
METHOD AND RECORDING MEDIUM FOR STORING THE  
PICTURE DECODING METHOD  
Filed : Herewith  
Examiner : Jose L. Couso (Parent Application)  
Art Unit : 2621 (Parent Application)

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Barnet Shindlerman

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified continuation application, please  
amend the application as follows.